

THE RUSSIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM VS. THE AMERICAN SYSTEM THE COMPARATIVE RESEARCH

С.О. Мельник

*Национальный исследовательский
Томский политехнический университет*

Introduction

If there is one question that I have been asked the most, it is this one - How do American and Russian schools compare? The answer is both simple and complicated at the same time.

The simple answer: The Russian Educational System and the American Systems are remarkably similar with some differences. I think that those who are aware of it and really care about this topic will probably agree that it is important to use the advantages of the each system to improve the educational system no matter where – in Russia or in the USA.

Consider the American educational system.

The structure of the educational system of the USA:

- Primary school
- Secondary school

1) Junior

2) High

- high educational institution

There is no clear definition of the term “high educational institution” in the USA. Actually, any educational institution providing further studying after the graduation of secondary school, known as postsecondary school, could be equally named “college”, “school”, “institution” or even “university”. Higher education is one of the most expensive facilities in the USA.

Receiving and sampling procedure of matriculants in the USA depends on their type and the level of prestige. Some universities make selection by the competitive exams, interviews, tests. Others accept just if you have finished secondary education. The most prestigious organize a competition due to the number of applicants is much higher than the number of vacancies. The main form of classes is lecture which is read for flows of students. The term “academic group” (in Russian understanding) does not exist in American universities. Every student studies the individual program and attends lectures according to his own choice.

During four years a student has to listen to a cycle of disciplines and then he will be awarded the academic degree of Bachelor. For this a student has to score the definite number of credits and pass required exams.

Getting the level of master a specialist could continue the education in the doctoral program. These programs focus on specialized studies and independent scientific research. Upon completion of doctoral studies (from 2 until 3 years) an aspirant presents his scientific project, protects it and awarded the degree of doctor of philosophy – PhD.

Consider the Russian educational system.

The structure of the educational system of Russia:

Structure:

Common:

- primary school (1-4 grades)
- secondary school (5-9 grades)
- high school (10-11 grades)

Professional:

- Secondary (College, technical school)
- Higher (Undergraduate, Specialty, MA)
- Postgraduate (Postgraduate ,doctoral programs)

Nowadays there are three steps in the structure of Russian “higher technical education”

- The first step is incomplete higher education receipt of which allows you to continue education at the next stages.
- The second stage with the studying period no less than 4 years provides getting the academic degree of Bachelor of Science in the chosen direction. Everyone who got the degree of Bachelor can continue their education for achieving the qualification or level required for the third step.
- The third step of higher education allows qualifying for an engineer in the chosen specialty or Master of Science degree in the direction.

Secondary education

2 years. The first step of higher education.

4 years. The second step of higher education.

6 years. The third step of higher education.

Master of the direction

An Engineer

In the Russian Federation there are three types of educational institutions where you can get higher education: institute, academy, university.

An academy has a more narrow range of specialties usually for the same sector of the economy.

A university covers wider range of specialties from different spheres. For example, technical or classic university.

Either of these two statuses can be assigned to an educational institution just in case conducting extensive and recognized at a certain level of scientific research.

Getting the education according to the program of Master of Science every student may receive a diploma of engineer as soon as all necessary tasks and thesis are done.

In the other cases, if you already have a diploma and you to want to get the second higher education in another direction, you are capable of doing it on a fee basis.

Conclusion Remarks:

1) One of the main differences between Russian and American educational systems is that the specialization is available only in high educational institutions in the USA. Whereas In Russian and The Soviet Union the specialization began in high school.

2) One more indicator is that the majority of research universities in the USA are funded by the private sector of economy: the most powerful international corporations make investments in perspective educational institutions so that in the future they will get qualified and sought after professionals.

3) The important advantage of the American system is that it constantly tries to follow all technological and social changes.

4) Very often systems of secondary education on the USA are criticized for its low effectiveness. This criticism is largely true: in particular, American schools can find something useful in organization of the learning process in Russian schools.

5) I would like to emphasize the role of foreign master's and doctoral students in the American system of education: if they did not, many doctoral and Master programs would never been realized. Especially it relates to educational programs in the field of natural sciences.

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